

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

---

GENERAL NOTES.

---

The Systematic Name of the Cuban Red Bat.

In this journal Mr. Gerrit S. Miller, Jr., recently (xiii, p. 155, June 13, 1900) raised the question of the proper systematic name of the Cuban Red Bat, *Lasiurus pfeifferi* (Gundlach, 1861, et auct. recent.), claiming that it should be *L. blossevillii* Gervais, or Lesson and Garnot. The history of the name *blossevillii* is as follows: In 1826, Lesson and Garnot (Voy. de la Coquille, I, 1826, 137, pl. ii, fig. 1) described and figured a bat of the genus *Lasiurus*, from the Rio de la Plata, as *Vespertilio bonariensis*. In an unsigned abstract of this work in Férussac's Bulletin des Sciences naturelles et de Geologie, Vol. xiii, 1826, pp. 95, 96, under the title "Mammifères nouveaux ou peu connus, décrits et figurés dans l'Atlas zoologique du Voyage autour du monde de la corvette la Coquille; par MM. Lesson et Garnot," descriptions are given of seven species of mammals, of which the first is *Vespertilio blossevillii*, the description being a transcript of the Latin diagnosis of *Vespertilio bonariensis* from Lesson and Garnot's "Voyage," with the addition "Hab. Monte-Video." As the plate carries the name *Vespertilio bonariensis* as well as the text, the name *Vespertilio blossevillii* is evidently a pure synonym of *V. bonariensis*. The suggestion of the name *blossevillii* is evidently to be found in Lesson and Garnot's text; these authors say that this bat "de Buenos Ayres nous fut remis par l'un de nos officiers, M. de Blosseville, qui le prit sur un vaisseau mouillé dans la rivière de la Plata."

Gervais, in 1845 (in R. de la Sagra's Hist. fis., polit. y nat. de la Isla de Cuba, iii, 32) simply applied the name *Vespertilio blossevillii* to the Cuban Red Bat (subsequently named *Atalapha pfeifferi* by Gundlach, in 1861), believing it to be specifically the same as that described by Lesson and Garnot, as above explained, rightly citing for the name Férussac's Bulletin, but wrongly citing for it Lesson and Garnot's report on the zoology of the Voyage of the Coquille. The proper systematic name of the Cuban Red Bat is, therefore, *Lasiurus pfeifferi* (Gundlach) as of late currently employed.—*J. A. Allen.*